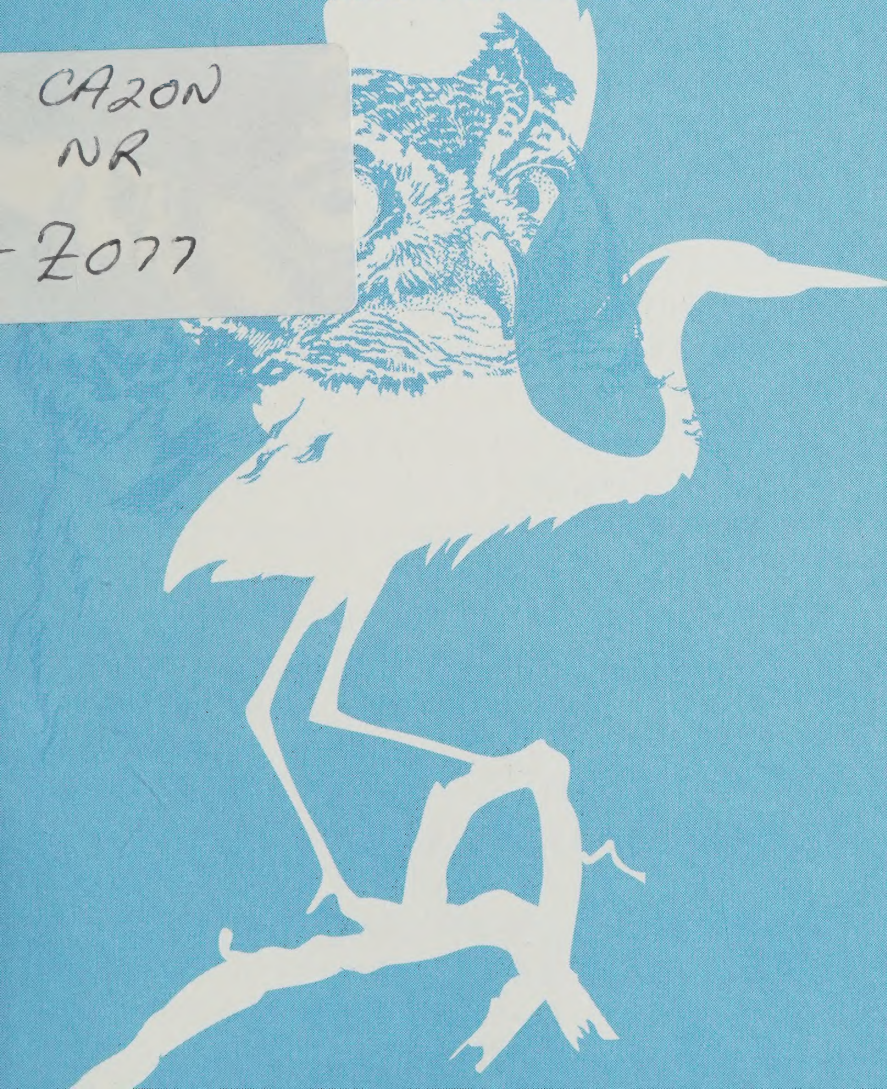


BIRD CHECKLIST

BON ECHO PROVINCIAL PARK

CA20N
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COVER ILLUSTRATION

Silhouette of a Great Blue Heron accented by a drawing of a Great Horned Owl.

BIRD CHECKLIST

BON ECHO PROVINCIAL PARK

INTRODUCTION

This checklist includes the relative seasonal abundance and breeding status of the 166 species of birds recorded at Bon Echo Provincial Park as well as descriptions of some of the best areas in the Park to observe them. The names of the birds and their arrangement follow the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (6th ed. 1984), and its supplements. We would be very grateful to birders who would like to help us expand our information on the birds of Bon Echo by providing any of the following:

- ◆ Sightings of species not listed as well as rare (R), occasional (O), or vagrant (V) species. Please include complete description and/or photographs.
- ◆ A copy of your daily notes, including your name and address, the number of each species seen and the date.
- ◆ Sightings of nesting species and their location.

Please direct this information or any comments or questions to the Park Naturalist during your visit or send to Bon Echo Provincial Park, R.R. #1, Cloyne, Ontario K0H 1K0, 613/336-2228.

ABUNDANCE CODES

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| C | Common | Frequently encountered in its preferred habitat and season and generally deemed to be numerous relative to its position within the food chain. |
| U | Uncommon | Sometimes difficult to locate but usually present in suitable habitat though less numerous than common species. |
| R | Rare | Usually seen within the region each year but in very small numbers and often in very specific locations. |
| O | Occasional | Not seen annually but records indicate a pattern to their occurrence. |
| V | Vagrant | Very rare with only a few reports of its occurrence in the past. |
| * | Denotes provincially rare or endangered species. | |

BREEDING CODES (B)

- No breeding evidence or strong indication of breeding in the area.
- ? Status uncertain, possibly breeds.
- 1 Rare breeder; breeds on a regular or irregular basis in very small numbers and/or very few locations.
- 2 Uncommon breeder; breeds regularly but is encountered infrequently in specific habitat or scattered locations.
- 3 Common breeder; breeds regularly in relatively high numbers and is frequently encountered during the breeding season.

SEASONAL CODES

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|---|
| Sp | Spring | the period when a species is migrating to its breeding area. |
| S | Summer | the period when a species is nesting. |
| F | Fall | the period when a species is migrating to its wintering area. |
| W | Winter | the period when a species is over-wintering. |

Date**Sp S F W B****LOONS**

Common LoonU U U - 1

CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant ..V V V - -

HERONS, BITTERNS

American Bittern.....U U U - 1

Least Bittern.....R R - - ?

Great Blue HeronU U U - ?

Green-backed Heron.....R R - - -

GEESE, DUCKS

Canada Goose.....U R U - -

Wood DuckU U U - 2

American Black DuckU U U - 1

Mallard.....U U U - 1

Blue-winged Teal.....U R U - ?

Ring-necked Duck.....U R U - ?

Greater ScaupO - R - -

OldsquawR - R - -

Common GoldeneyeU - U - -

Bufflehead.....U O U - -

Hooded MerganserU U U - 1

Common MerganserC U C O 2

VULTURES

Turkey VultureC C U - 3

HAWKS, EAGLES

Osprey.....U U O - 1

Bald Eagle *R O R - -

Sharp-shinned Hawk.....R R R R ?

Date		Sp	S	F	W	B
_____	Cooper's Hawk *	R	R	R	O	?
_____	Northern Goshawk *	R	R	R	R	1
_____	Red-shouldered Hawk *	R	R	R	—	1
_____	Broad-winged Hawk	U	C	R	—	2
_____	Red-tailed Hawk	R	R	R	O	—
_____	Rough-legged Hawk	R	—	R	O	—
FALCONS						
_____	American Kestrel	R	R	R	—	?
_____	Merlin	R	—	R	—	—
_____	Peregrine Falcon *	O	—	O	—	—
GROUSE						
_____	Ruffed Grouse	C	C	C	C	3
_____	Spruce Grouse	O	O	O	O	?
RAILS						
_____	Virginia Rail	O	O	—	—	1
_____	Sora	O	O	—	—	?
PLOVERS						
_____	Killdeer	C	C	O	—	3
WOODCOCK, SNIPE, SANDPIPERS						
_____	Greater Yellowlegs	R	—	O	—	—
_____	Lesser Yellowlegs	R	—	O	—	—
_____	Solitary Sandpiper	R	—	O	—	—
_____	Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Whimbrel	R	—	V	—	—
_____	Sanderling	O	—	R	—	—
_____	Semipalmated Sandpiper	O	—	R	—	—
_____	Least Sandpiper	O	—	O	—	—
_____	Common Snipe	U	U	R	—	1

Date		Sp	S	F	W	B
_____	American Woodcock	U	U	R	-	2
	GULLS, TERNS					
_____	Ring-billed Gull	C	C	U	-	-
_____	Herring Gull	U	U	U	-	-
	DOVES, PIGEONS					
_____	Mourning Dove	R	R	R	-	1
	CUCKOOS					
_____	Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	-	-	1
	OWLS					
_____	Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U	2
_____	Snowy Owl	O	-	O	O	-
_____	Barred Owl	U	U	U	U	2
_____	Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	U	-	2
	GOATSUCKERS					
_____	Common Nighthawk	U	U	U	-	?
_____	Whip-poor-will	U	U	-	-	1
	SWIFTS					
_____	Chimney Swift	U	C	O	-	?
	HUMMINGBIRDS					
_____	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	-	-	3
	KINGFISHERS					
_____	Belted Kingfisher	C	C	U	R	2
	WOODPECKERS					
_____	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	C	U	-	3
_____	Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	3
_____	Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	3
_____	Black-backed Woodpecker	O	O	O	O	?
_____	Northern Flicker	C	C	U	-	3

Date		Sp	S	F	W	B
_____	Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	2
	FLYCATCHERS					
_____	Olive-sided Flycatcher	R	R	—	—	1
_____	Eastern Wood Pewee	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	U	—	—	1
_____	Alder Flycatcher	U	U	R	—	2
_____	Willow Flycatcher	U	U	R	—	2
_____	Least Flycatcher	C	C	—	—	3
_____	Eastern Phoebe	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	—	3
	LARKS					
_____	Horned Lark	O	—	O	O	—
	SWALLOWS					
_____	Purple Martin	U	U	—	—	?
_____	Tree Swallow	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Northern Rough-winged					
	Swallow	U	U	—	—	2
_____	Bank Swallow	R	R	—	—	?
_____	Cliff Swallow	U	U	—	—	1
_____	Barn Swallow	C	C	R	—	3
	JAYS, CROWS					
_____	Gray Jay	V	V	V	V	?
_____	Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	3
_____	American Crow	C	C	U	R	3
_____	Common Raven	C	C	C	C	3
	TITMICE					
_____	Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	3

Date	Sp	S	F	W	B
_____ Boreal Chickadee.....	-	-	V	V	-
NUTHATCHES					
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	U	U	U	U	2
_____ White-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U	2
CREEPERS					
_____ Brown Creeper	U	U	U	R	2
WRENS					
_____ House Wren	U	U	-	-	2
_____ Winter Wren	U	U	R	V	2
_____ Sedge Wren *	R	R	R	-	?
KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS					
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	R	U	U	1
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C	U	C	-	1
THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS					
_____ Eastern Bluebird *	R	R	O	-	-
_____ Veery	C	C	O	-	3
_____ Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	R	-	O	-	-
_____ Swainson's Thrush	U	U	O	-	?
_____ Hermit Thrush	U	U	O	-	2
_____ Wood Thrush	U	U	O	-	2
_____ American Robin	C	C	O	-	3
MIMICS					
_____ Gray Catbird	C	C	O	-	3
_____ Brown Thrasher	U	U	O	-	2
PIPITS					
_____ American Pipit	U	-	U	-	-
WAXWINGS					
_____ Cedar Waxwing	C	C	C	U	3

Date	Sp	S	F	W	B
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike.....	R	—	R	R	—
STARLINGS					
European Starling.....	R	R	R	—	?
VIREOS					
Solitary Vireo.....	U	R	U	—	1
Yellow-throated Vireo.....	R	U	—	—	2
Warbling Vireo.....	C	C	—	—	2
Philadelphia Vireo.....	U	R	U	—	1
Red-eyed Vireo.....	C	C	U	—	3
WOOD WARBLERS					
Golden-winged Warbler.....	U	U	—	—	2
Tennessee Warbler.....	C	R	R	—	?
Nashville Warbler.....	C	U	R	—	2
Northern Parula.....	U	O	R	—	?
Yellow Warbler.....	C	C	—	—	3
Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	C	C	R	—	3
Magnolia Warbler.....	U	R	R	—	1
Cape May Warbler.....	R	—	—	—	—
Black-throated Blue Warbler...	U	U	R	—	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C	U	U	—	2
Black-throated Green Warbler.	C	U	R	—	2
Blackburnian Warbler.....	U	R	R	—	2
Pine Warbler.....	U	U	R	—	2
Prairie Warbler *	U	U	—	—	1
Palm Warbler.....	R	—	R	—	—
Bay-breasted Warbler.....	U	—	R	—	—
Blackpoll Warbler.....	U	—	R	—	—

Date		Sp	S	F	W	B
_____	Cerulean Warbler *	R	R	—	—	1
_____	Black-and-White Warbler	C	C	—	—	3
_____	American Redstart	C	C	—	—	3
_____	Ovenbird	C	C	—	—	3
_____	Northern Waterthrush	C	C	—	—	2
_____	Mourning Warbler	U	U	—	—	2
_____	Common Yellowthroat	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Wilson's Warbler	R	—	R	—	?
_____	Canada Warbler	U	R	—	—	2

TANAGERS

_____	Scarlet Tanager	U	U	—	—	2
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"SUMMER FINCHES"

_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	—	—	3
_____	Indigo Bunting	C	C	—	—	2

SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS

_____	American Tree Sparrow	U	—	U	U	—
_____	Chipping Sparrow	C	C	—	—	3
_____	Field Sparrow	R	R	—	—	1
_____	Fox Sparrow	U	—	U	—	—
_____	Song Sparrow	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Lincoln's Sparrow	R	O	R	—	1
_____	Swamp Sparrow	C	C	U	—	3
_____	White-throated Sparrow	C	U	U	—	3
_____	White-crowned Sparrow	U	—	U	—	—
_____	Dark-eyed Junco	C	U	U	C	2
_____	Snow Bunting	U	—	U	U	—

MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS

_____	Bobolink	O	O	—	—	—
-------	----------	---	---	---	---	---

Date		Sp	S	F	W	B
_____	Red-winged Blackbird.....	C	C	U	—	3
_____	Rusty Blackbird	C	—	C	—	—
_____	Common Grackle.....	C	C	R	—	3
_____	Brown-headed Cowbird.....	C	C	—	—	3
_____	Northern Oriole	U	U	—	—	2
FINCHES						
_____	Pine Grosbeak	—	—	U	U	—
_____	Purple Finch	U	U	U	U	2
_____	Red Crossbill.....	R	O	R	R	?
_____	Common Redpoll.....	U	—	U	U	—
_____	Pine Siskin	U	U	U	U	2
_____	American Goldfinch.....	U	U	U	U	2
_____	Evening Grosbeak.....	C	U	C	C	2

Checklist compiled by:
 Todd A. Norris and Ron D. Weir 1992.

RECOMMENDED BIRDING AREAS

Bon Echo Provincial Park is a wonderful place to get out and observe the birds. While almost any location in the park can offer productive birding, there are a few areas we recommend highly because of the array and abundance of birds they attract. (See Bon Echo Park map for the locations of these sites.)

1) BON ECHO CREEK TRAIL

This trail cuts through alder and hazel thickets in the northern stretches making it a very good place to observe many warbler species including Chestnut-sided, Yellowthroat, Mourning, Golden-winged, American Redstart and Canada Warbler. Further along, the trail enters a forested area dominated by medium aged maple, beech and hemlock trees. Here, one can frequently observe Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and other woodpeckers, Veery, Broad-winged Hawk and American Crow. Belted Kingfisher and Northern Rough-winged Swallow are often encountered darting along the creek.

At the end of the trail, the Mazinaw shoreline can be a rewarding place to search for gulls, loons and other birds of lake and shore. Gulls and shorebirds frequently congregate at the New Beach Lagoon while birds such as Eastern Kingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-shafted

Flicker, American Robin, American Crow, Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird commonly forage amidst the grasses and sedges surrounding the lagoon.

2) TAPPING FARM

A small area of open field, stone fences, rotting logs and scattered sumac stands are all that remain to indicate that this area was once occupied by settlers. The edge habitat created by the opening of this land is preferred by birds such as the Indigo Bunting which can often be heard singing from treetops in this location. Field, Song and Chipping Sparrow have also been noted singing here. Woodcock are sometimes flushed in the woods surrounding the farm site.

3) FITNESS TRAIL

The open grassy area at the entrance to the Fitness Trail is an excellent place to listen for evidence of birdlife. During the spring, migrants sometimes flutter through the surrounding trees in large numbers. Birds include Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Northern Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Great Crested Flycatcher. Later in the summer, Scarlet Tanager and Ruby-throated Hummingbird are often encountered here.

4) SHIELD TRAIL POND

This pond is located about halfway around the Shield Trail. Birds which can be sighted there in early morning include American Black Duck, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Spotted Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker and Cedar Waxwing.

5) BON ECHO LAKE

The beaver marsh surrounding the Abes and Essens Trail parking lot, along the western edge of Bon Echo Lake, can be a good place to watch for Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, hawks, Yellowthroat and Swamp Sparrow.

6) ABES AND ESSENS TRAIL

This 17 km. trail winds through a variety of habitats from mature maple woodlands to dry oak forest. Streams criss-cross the trail while rock lookouts provide excellent views of Clutes, Essens, Abes, Little Rock and Tamarack Lake. Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Osprey, American Black Duck, Mallard, Common Raven, Pileated Woodpecker, Sedge Wren and Barred Owl are sometimes found on and around these lakes.

7) PEARSON AND JOEPERRY LAKES

The lower stretches of Joeperry Lake unite with the more plant-filled water of Pearson Lake and create an area where various waterbirds such as

herons, ducks and loons frequent. Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher and Tree Swallow are commonly found in the surrounding landscape.

8) MAZINAW ROCK

Birds seen infrequently elsewhere in the park can be observed by canoeing along the cliff face of the majestic Mazinaw Rock. Turkey Vultures soar over the cliff, wheeling upon the thermals created by the hot summer sun. From cliffside prominences, Prairie Warblers sing their unusual song, heard best during the calm morning or evening hours of late spring and early summer. Barn and Cliff Swallow nest on lower reaches of the cliff. A low echoing, croaking call, emanating from the high crags of the rock is evidence of the Common Raven.

9) KISHKEBUS LAKE

By sitting quietly on the shore or out in the lake in a canoe, you can often witness hawks, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Common Raven and ducks flying overhead or around the shoreline of the lake. Sandpipers can sometimes be viewed walking the sandy beaches of the lake, while typical deep forest birds such as vireos, Scarlet Tanager and thrushes can often be heard singing at great distances within the sylvan slopes.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

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FRIENDS of BON ECHO PARK



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